

PRESS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY CELEBRATION MARKS RE-OPENING OF WEBB MEMORIAL STATE PARK

Weymouth, Mass. – Weymouth residents today joined state officials and community leaders in a ceremony formally re-opening the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Webb Memorial State Park. The popular 36-acre public park was temporarily closed earlier this year to allow for an environmental cleanup associated with a fertilizer manufacturing facility that had operated nearby for more than a century.

The clean-up project is the result of a voluntary agreement between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and ConocoPhillips of Houston, Texas. The 36-acre waterfront property is part of the Boston Harbor Islands national park area. Since January, Webb Memorial State Park has undergone a number of improvements including: wetlands restoration, extensive soil clean-up, the planting of new trees, shrubs and grasses, walkways restoration, new park benches and picnic tables, and restroom and maintenance building rehabilitation.

Work on the park is part of the Weymouth Neck Remediation Program that ConocoPhillips is implementing in the area. The company is the successor in interest to the enterprise that operated the fertilizer plant for decades. Although ConocoPhillips never operated the plant, the company is performing the comprehensive cleanup at no cost to Massachusetts taxpayers.

“On behalf of the Commonwealth and its citizens, ConocoPhillips is to be commended for their prompt acceptance of responsibility for the remediation of Webb State Park,” said Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. “Their actions in quickly and reasonably negotiating an agreement to make restitution to DCR of the public funds expended to investigate the contamination at Webb and the remediation efforts they have undertaken here represent the best of corporate America.”

“On behalf of the DCR, I echo Secretary Pritchard’s comments and add that not only has ConocoPhillips responded to this situation in a manner that exemplifies corporate

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STEPHEN R. PRITCHARD
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responsibility, but they have fully lived up to every commitment made, whether in a written agreement or not,” said Stephen H. Burrington, who was recently-appointed Commissioner of DCR. “We are grateful for ConocoPhillips involvement and appreciates the opportunity we had to work cooperatively with them on this project.”

Other speakers at the event included Senator Robert Hedlund, Representative James Murphy, Mary Toomey of the Friends of Webb State Park & the Back River, and William Kitchen of ConocoPhillips. Weymouth Mayor David Madden and other town officials were also guests at the ceremony.

“The re-opening of Webb State Park is an important milestone in our overall clean-up program because the site is enjoyed by so many in the community,” said William Kitchen of ConocoPhillips. “The spirit of collaboration and support demonstrated by Weymouth Neck residents is helping to achieve a permanent solution that protects public health and the environment.”

Work on the second phase of the park project – already underway – includes soil clean-up at two small areas along the perimeter of the property. Work on an additional parcel is being performed in conjunction with the remediation of properties outside the park. When completed in 2006, additional park improvements will include a new walkway and scenic water overlook.

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